

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1031

By Trail

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Judge J.S. "Steve" Daniel of Murfreesboro upon being named Senior Judge.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the members of this General Assembly to salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as eminent jurists; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body has both the opportunity and responsibility to honor those citizens who in their years of public service have performed with uncommon dedication and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable individual is Judge J.S. "Steve" Daniel, who has touched many lives with his generosity, his genuine concern for the well-being of his fellow citizens, and his sterling example and who, because of these notable characteristics and his dedication to his job, was recently named Senior Judge; and

WHEREAS, Judge Daniel will step down from the 16th Judicial District bench and begin presiding over cases throughout Tennessee on September 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Senior Judges serve in trial and appellate courts to help the local judiciary when a judge is ill, disqualified, or cannot hear a case because of a conflict; and

WHEREAS, Daniel's appointment to this position of honor serves as recognition and appreciation of his twenty-four years of services as a trial judge in virtually all types of civil and criminal cases; and

WHEREAS, this diversity of experience will be crucial in the Senior Judge position; Daniel is also experienced in high-profile cases, including presiding over the murder trial of Byron Looper, who was accused and convicted of killing state Senator Tommy Burks; and

WHEREAS, he was first elected to the Circuit Court judgeship for Rutherford and Cannon counties in 1980, a position in which he has displayed steadfast morality, acute knowledge of the law, and devotion to his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, while the Senior Judgeship will allow Judge Daniel to carry a reduced workload and spend more time with his parents and his 16-year-old daughter, Meaghan, he will be greatly missed in Rutherford and Cannon counties; and

WHEREAS, always striving to "apply the law in an open court forum, in a fair and even-handed way," Judge Daniel served these counties with distinction, knowledge, dignity, and honor; he brings these same valued principles to his Senior Judgeship, and the people of Tennessee will benefit greatly from his expertise; and

WHEREAS, an adjunct professor at Middle Tennessee State University since 1975, Judge Daniel hopes that the Senior Judge position will allow him to expand his teaching responsibilities at MTSU and at the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Judge Daniel has evidenced the qualities of responsible citizenship as President of both the Tennessee Trial Judge Association and Tennessee Judicial Conference; he is the current presiding judge with the Court of the Judiciary, which is responsible for discipline for the judiciary statewide; and

WHEREAS, Judge Daniel completed fourteen years of service with the Tennessee Judicial Council; his long-standing involvement with professional organizations includes fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation; and

WHEREAS, he served on the first Tennessee Judicial Evaluations Committee and is the current president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference Foundation; and

WHEREAS, he received the prestigious Outstanding Service Award from the Tennessee Judicial Conference in 1994-95; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his B.S. from Louisiana State University and his Doctor's degree in Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee, Judge Daniel served as a military judge in the United States Army during Desert Storm and for the Army Reserves in Kentucky and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as a judge for the State of Tennessee, Judge Daniel has proven himself to be a gifted attorney, dedicated jurist, consummate professional, and loyal citizen, earning the praise of members of the Bench and Bar alike; and

WHEREAS, for these qualities, he is most deserving of the appointment to Senior Judge, and this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Judge Daniel for his dedication to justice and equity under the law and his sterling record of public service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Judge J.S. "Steve" Daniel for his laudable and astute service to the State of Tennessee, congratulate him on his appointment to Senior Judge, and extend to him our wishes for much success as he continues his distinguished career.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.